

## Wisconsin Energy Independence Fund: Clean Energy Grant and Loan Program



Governor Doyle is launching a \$150 million, ten-year grant and loan program to make Wisconsin a leader in clean energy. The program will support cutting-edge R&D, the manufacture and production of new clean energy products, and ways to make clean energy use widespread and cost-effective. By strategically investing in the development and deployment of clean energy technologies, Wisconsin can leverage its considerable natural resources and manufacturing expertise to support new businesses, strengthen the economy, and move us toward energy independence.

### **Program Objectives**

To become a leader in the clean energy industry by:

- Increasing public and private investment in clean energy;
- Expanding the clean energy industry in Wisconsin;
- Capturing an increasing percentage of the growing clean energy market.

To increase clean energy usage by:

- Increasing the supply of and access to clean energies;
- Developing clean energy infrastructure;
- Supporting the commercialization and adoption of clean energy technologies.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are Wisconsin businesses and researchers. Projects eligible for grants or loans are:

#### ***1. Research and Development Projects***

Early stage businesses or researchers who are engaged in pre-commercialization R&D activities in transformational, cutting edge and proprietary clean energy technologies.

Awards will target projects that:

- are supported by viable science;
- propose game-changing, transformational technology;
- have large market potential;
- align with Wisconsin or regional strengths; and
- are likely to be commercialized or manufactured in Wisconsin.

#### ***2. Commercialization/Adoption Projects***

Businesses that are commercializing or producing innovative clean energy products and processes. Projects would support the production and adoption of energy from clean sources, as well as the manufacture of products that increase energy efficiency or use of clean energy.

Awards will target projects that:

- are supported by established science;
- have large market potential;
- have growth estimates exceeding industry averages; and
- have significant job creation potential.

#### ***3. Supply Chain Development Projects***

Projects that increase the use and cost-effectiveness of clean energy, by decreasing market barriers to adoption or developing clean energy infrastructure, including the storage, transportation, transmission, and distribution of clean energy.

Awards will target projects that:

- eliminate or reduce market barriers to adoption of clean energy sources;
- have high market penetration potential; and
- support clean energy sources with a competitive cost structure to existing non-clean energy source options.

### **Funding Availability**

The department anticipates awarding up to \$15 million annually through three competitive application cycles. Typical awards are expected to range between \$100,000 and \$500,000.

Matching funds of at least 50% of total project costs are required and must come from a source other than government funds from the state of Wisconsin.